



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 UN PLAZA, SUITE 420, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TEL: (212) 223-0676 FAX: (212) 223-0425



Please check against delivery

**Statement
of**

**H.E. Dr. Widhya Chem
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations**

at

**the General Debate of the Second Committee
61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York
Tuesday, October 3, 2006**

Madame Chairperson,

1. Let me join other previous speakers to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau, on your recent election to the Bureau of the Second Committee for the 61st Session of the General Assembly. My Delegation believes that, under your skillful guidance and leadership, the work of the Second Committee for this Session will achieve fruitful results. Cambodia stands ready to contribute positively in the achievement of this objective.
2. Cambodia would like to align itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by our colleague from South Africa, as well as by Indonesia, on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Madame Chairperson,

3. Since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, Cambodia has adopted several cross-cutting priority implementing strategies to build a Cambodian society that is socially cohesive, educationally advanced, culturally vibrant, and free from hunger, disease, inequality, vulnerability and exclusion.
4. We adopted a National Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2002 and a set of Cambodian Millennium Development Goals in 2003. Last year we prepared a National Strategic Development Plan 2006-2010 (NSDP). The National Strategic Development Plan operationalises the Rectangular Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia in its third legislative mandate, which has identified good governance as the core with four reform areas: (i) fighting corruption; (ii) legal and judicial reform; (iii) public administration reform; and (iv) armed forces reform and demobilization. The NSDP is now the single overarching document to guide us in our development efforts which have a clear pro-poor and pro-rural focus in order to rapidly reduce poverty level.
5. Since then, Cambodia has made positive progress in some areas, such as reducing poverty, combating the HIV/AIDS and improving the livelihoods of the people. In 2005, for example, Cambodia's economic growth rate unexpectedly reached 13.4%, after having had a regular increase of GDP from 7% to 10% since the launch of our own MDGs. The Royal Government of Cambodia has projected that GDP growth will reach 8% in 2006.

Madame Chairperson,

6. The situation in the developing countries has not much improved. Many nations are still facing a lot of difficulties due to the negative impact of globalization, the shortage of financial resources, the lack of qualified Human Resources, and more recently the rising of oil prices and its implications on smaller economies.
7. Extreme poverty in the world today is an affront to the whole world with 1.3 billion people still living on the margins of life, earning less than US\$1 a day, while another 1.8 billion people are living on less than US\$2 a day, in spite of the commitment of the MDGs since the year 2000. To tackle this crucial problem, it requires painstaking efforts at the national and international levels. Eradication of poverty is, first and foremost, the responsibility of the whole world and requires cooperation of the developed countries, international institutions, as well as the private sector. Given the significant development potentials that exist in our world, Cambodia believes that no one on this planet should be left hungry.
8. We have to secure that advances in science, technology, knowledge, know-how and prosperity are shared with developing countries, especially the least developed countries (LDCs). Social and economic progress in poor countries will reduce all kinds of illegal trafficking and enhance stability and predictability in the international security structure. Trade and investments, as well as ODA are crucial for economic take-off in the LDCs. For this reason, Cambodia would like to appeal for wider access to the markets for the products from least developed countries. In this regard, the Doha Round suspension is a source of great concern for the multilateral system as we face the danger of witnessing new protectionist walls in more developed parts of the world. Another equally important issue is how to translate the rhetoric of debt write offs into speedy action by debt swaps for development in the countries servicing the debt.
9. To address global poverty, a comprehensive approach and collective actions are needed. The international community must ensure that the commitments agreed upon at international conferences and Summits are translated into concrete actions. We continue to call on the implementation of the Brussels Program of Action for all developed countries to honor their commitment to allocate 0.7 percent of their Gross National Product (GNP) for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and 0.15 to 0.20 percent to the Least Developed Countries.

10.I would like to conclude by stressing on the importance of finding new resources for Financing for Development and the continued significance of global partnership for development to enhance long term peace, stability and security in the whole world.

Thank You.